

approved

Senior Tax Credit Task Force

Minutes of the January 18, 2007, meeting

The senior tax credit task force met on January 18, 2007, in the Banneker Room, Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Dr., Ellicott City, MD, at 2 pm.

The following members of the task force were in attendance: Don Dunn, Peter Rogers, Sue Brown, Ted Meyerson, Curt Curtis, Janice Bloodworth, Sara Hamer, Frank Chase, Sue Buswell, Pat Dornan, Colin Burke, and Joel Yesley.

Because Mr. Weinstein and Ms. Greisz were unable to attend, Donald L. Stitely (Budget) and Ali Shirazie (Finance) sat in for them.

The following staff members were in attendance, Jeff Meyers, Diana Coll, and Leo Oken. Lynn Robeson from the Office of Law and Jeff Bronow from the Department of Planning and Zoning also attended.

The meeting was open to the public and the press.

Chairman Meyerson called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

A new member, Curt Curtis, appointed by Council member Terrasa, was introduced.

After adding the word "senior" preceeding "property tax credit", the task force formally adopted the statement of purpose that was printed in the [agenda](#). The [minutes from January 16, 2007](#), were approved unanimously after making the same change to the statement of purpose.

Staff distributed a [planning calendar](#), which sets out the general topics for discussion for the rest of the month. The chairman suggested that it would be useful for task force members to visit senior centers during the day on January 30. Staff will investigate and handle the scheduling.

Mr. Bronow provided additional demographic data about media income, household size, and percentage of income spent on housing.

The chairman distributed a document that, by example, illustrated how the tax credit would work if no changes were made. The task force discussed the issue of the cost of administering the credit and what is meant by "substantial improvements".

The task force discussed whether the tax credit should be subject to a sunset or an aggregate cap. Ms. Robeson suggested that a cap might violate the equal protection provisions of the Constitution. Also, she pointed out that a cap might make the amount of future credits unpredictable for property owners. She indicated that a sunset would be legal. Mr. Dunn indicated that future Councils have the authority and obligation to consider each year whether to repeal or modify the credit. Mr. Rogers wanted a future agenda to include a discussion of whether the credit should be repealed. The consensus seemed to be that the task force should not recommend a cap. Mr. Dornan made a motion that the task force recommend that a sunset

provision should not be added. Several members agreed but other members thought that the task force did not yet have enough information to decide. Mr. Rogers' motion to table was adopted.

The chairman reminded members that the next meeting would cover the income test, whether the credit should be progressive, and whether there should be an asset test.

The task force adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Meyers